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The Descendants of Abraham Speicher and Barbara Weaver

In the making of this genealogical chart and paper I have paid special attention to the Noah Speicher-Polly Smith family, as that is the family with which I am most concerned.

Most of their descendants are Mennonites, or one of the Mennonite branches. None of them, however, has had any direct connection with the Mennonite Publishing House and its history.

The Descendants of
Barbara Weaver
& Abraham Speicher

Prepared for Mennonite
history BL 324

By David Speicher

Delbert Gratz, Ph.D., Instructor

Bluffton College

May 25, 1958

For the material on the chart I am indebted to the Descendants of Barbara Hochstetler, by Rev. H. Natzler, D.D., Mennonite Publishing House, Scottdale, Pa., 1938. Most of the descendants have been brought up to the late 1930's, therefore the last generation must be missing.

Barbara Weaver was born April 2, 1829, at Walnut Creek, Ohio, and married Abraham Speicher. Their children were Elizabeth, Sarah, Mattie, Mary, Noah, Fannie, and Barbara. They were married August 22, 1848. Abraham was born July 15, 1827, and died October 4, 1861, at the age of 34 years. After Abraham's death Barbara married Jethro Miller. Their children were William, Adam, and Amanda.

The Descendants of Abraham Speicher and Barbara Weaver

In the making of this genealogical chart and paper I have paid special attention to the Noah Speicher-Polly Smith family, as that is the family with which I am most concerned.

Most of their descendants are Mennonites, or one of the Mennonite branches. None of them, however, have had any direct influence on their church, as correspondence with John Hostetter of the Mennonite Publishing House and Ira Landis of the Christian Mennonite Committee of the Lancaster Mennonite Conference has shown. One of Noah's nephews, Dan Herschberger, is a Bishop in the Amish church, and two of his grand-children are pastors in the United Missionary Church.

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Before marrying Barbara Weaver, Jephtha Miller had been married twice: to Barbara Wenger, and Maria Yoder, and had children by them. (See chart)

Noah Speicher, of Shipshewana, Indiana and Polly Smith were married April 9, 1882, in Lagrange County, Indiana. She was born July 5, 1860, in Lagrange County, Indiana, and died February 12, 1916. They were Amish Mennonite. Their children were Matilda, Milton, Ada, Edna, Floyd, Mae, Lizzie, Mattie, Ida, Infant son, Ira, Charles, and Adelia.

Charles Speicher, of Shipshewana, Indiana, was born April 12, 1901, at Shipshewana, Indiana, and married Eva Smith on June 12, 1930, at Goshen, Indiana, by Rev. Edwin Betweiler. She was born August 1, 1903, in South Dakota, the daughter of John Smith and Susie Jortz. They are Mennonite. Their children are Mary Sue, David, and Robert.

The following was copied and translated out of an old German Bible that belonged to Abraham and Barbara Speicher, and is now in our family. It gives the sign of the Zodiac in which each of their children was born.

Abraham Speicher was born on the 15th of July, in the year 1827, in the sign of the Ram.

Barbara Weaver was born on the 2nd of April, in the year 1829.

On August 27, 1848, the two above mentioned, Abraham and Barbara, were married.

On March 19th our daughter Elizabeth was born, in the sign of Goat; in the year 1849.

March the 16th our daughter Sarah was born, in the sign of the Virgin, in the year 1851.

On March 11th our daughter Magdalena (Mattie) was born, in the sign of the Ram, in the year 1853.

On December 31st our daughter Maria (Mary) was born, in the sign of twins, in the year 1854,

Noah Speicher was born in the year 1857, on the 12th of July, in the sign of the Fish.

Fronica (Fannie) Speicher was born in the year 1859, on the 30th of November, in the sign of the Waterman.

Barbara Speicher was born in the year 1861, on the 28th of September, in the sign of Cancer.

Noah Speicher could not remember anything about his grandfather, Abraham. This is the first Abraham on the chart, the second Abraham being the first son.

Barbara Weaver has told about her parents (Samuel Weaver) moving from Pa. to Holmes County, Ohio, in a covered wagon. There she married Abraham, a stone mason. He died of pneumonia when his daughter was only 6 days old. They were Conservative Mennonites.

Barbara couldn't support all of the children (7) herself, so she put them out among other people to be raised. This was before she married Jephtha Miller. As a result, her children were scattered rather widely. Barbara, her daughter, is the only one who was raised by Amish people and raised all eight children to be Amish. (See chart). They have numerous descendants scattered all through Ohio, particularly Holmes County.

Noah was known as an honest man and people used to be amazed at the many kinds of work he could do. The only thing he could not do was to tie his own shoe strings. Perhaps I should explain here that he had lost his right hand in an accident. There was a member in his church who had lost his left hand so whenever they bought gloves, they had no problem of what to do with the odd one - they merely exchanged them.

All of his children were raised in the Mennonite church, but in the next generation there are Old Mennonites, G.C. Mennonites, Baptists, Catholics, Lutherans, Brethren, and M.B.C.

In 1882 Noah married Pally Smith, whose father, Nicolas, came from Germany to escape military service. They lived in Saginaw County near Shipshewana, Indiana. He caught his hand in a conveyor belt in the sawmill which he worked and it was mangled so badly it had to be amputated.

There was a growing family and soon he moved on a 200 acre farm with his large family. He worked so hard to improve the land was sold for \$200.00 an acre, while only \$35.00 an acre was paid when buying it. Later, Noah left the farm, and died at the age

984.

As I mentioned before, there have been no outstanding persons among Abraham and Barbara's

5

descendants. Lincoln must have had this kind
of family in mind when he said, "God must
love the common people because he made so
many of them." *

* Most of this last account was given to me by
Mae Speicher, Abraham's granddaughter.

Lizzie 1908
John 1909
Barbara 1909
Daniel 1911
Martha 1912
Fanny 1913
Louisa 1915
Samuel 1917
Emanuel 1919

Katie 1920
Susan 1922
Anna 1923
Mary 1923
Harvey 1924
Ella 1926

Clary 1919
Leila 1918
Anny 1920
Andy 1925-1925
Joseph 1928

Mary Ann
Catherine
Daniel 1908
May 1911
John 1915
Eli 1918
Sarah 1920
Elizabeth 1922
Abraham 1923

Edna 1917
Ada 1919
Katie 1920
Roman 1922
Daniel 1924
Noah 1926

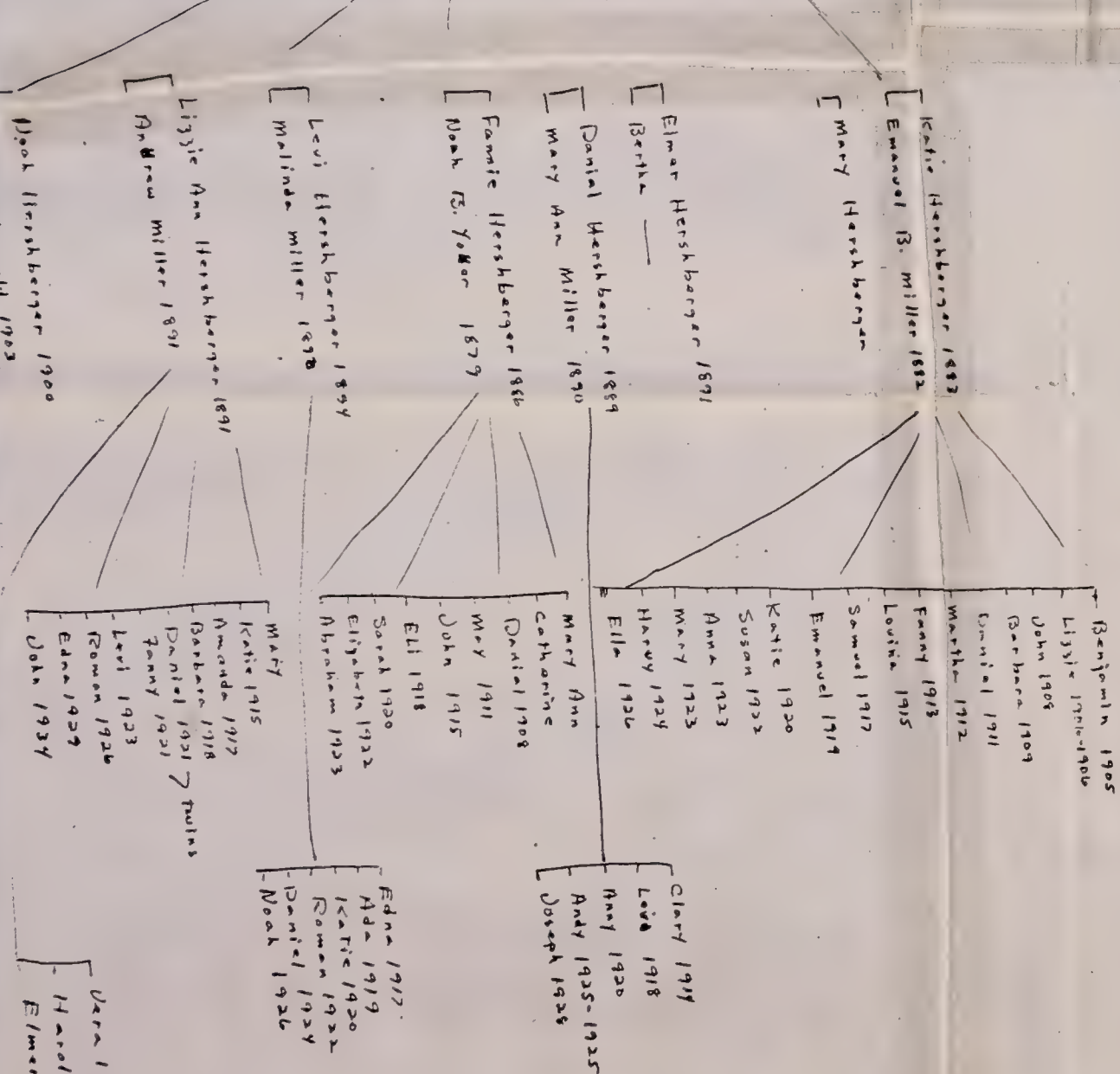
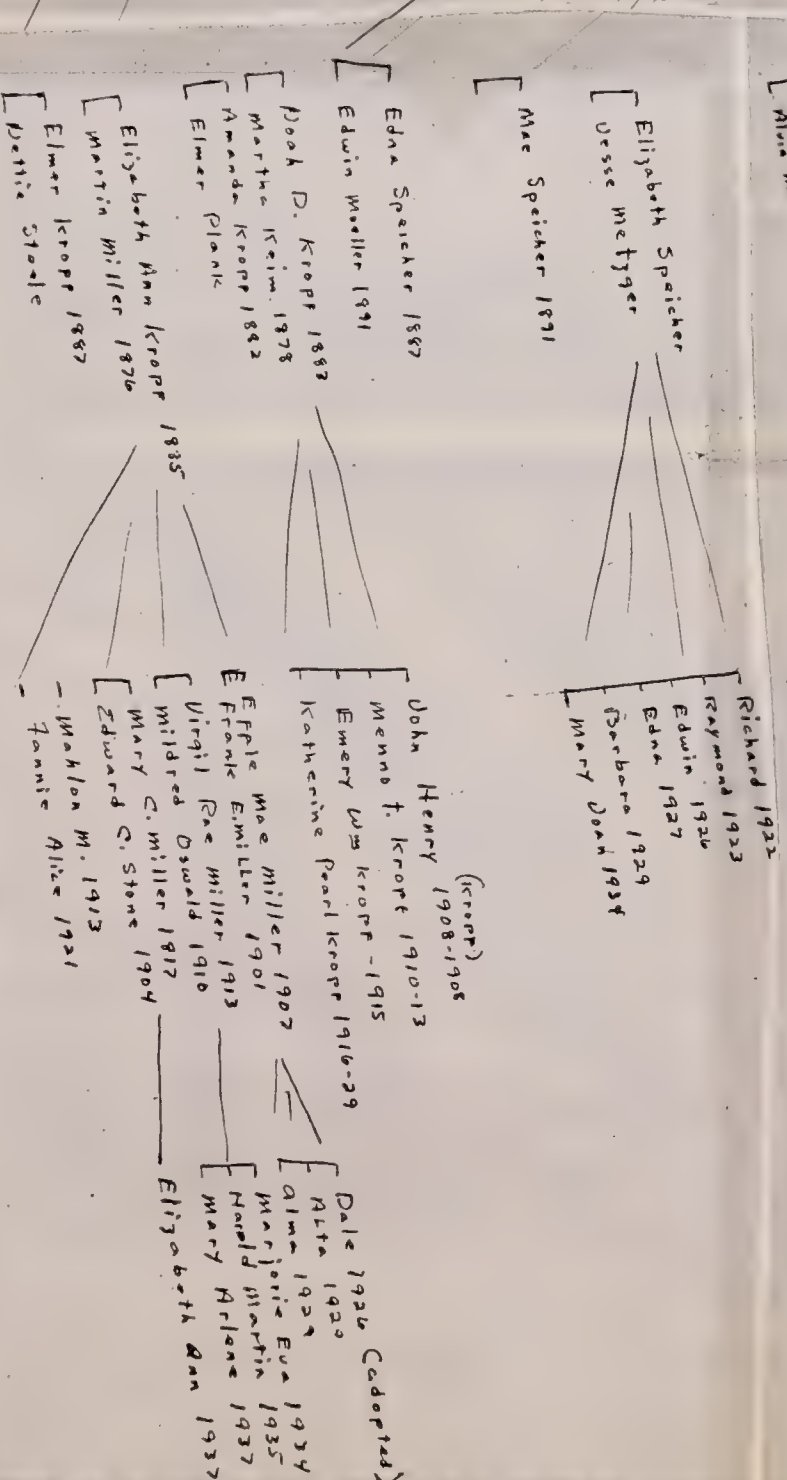
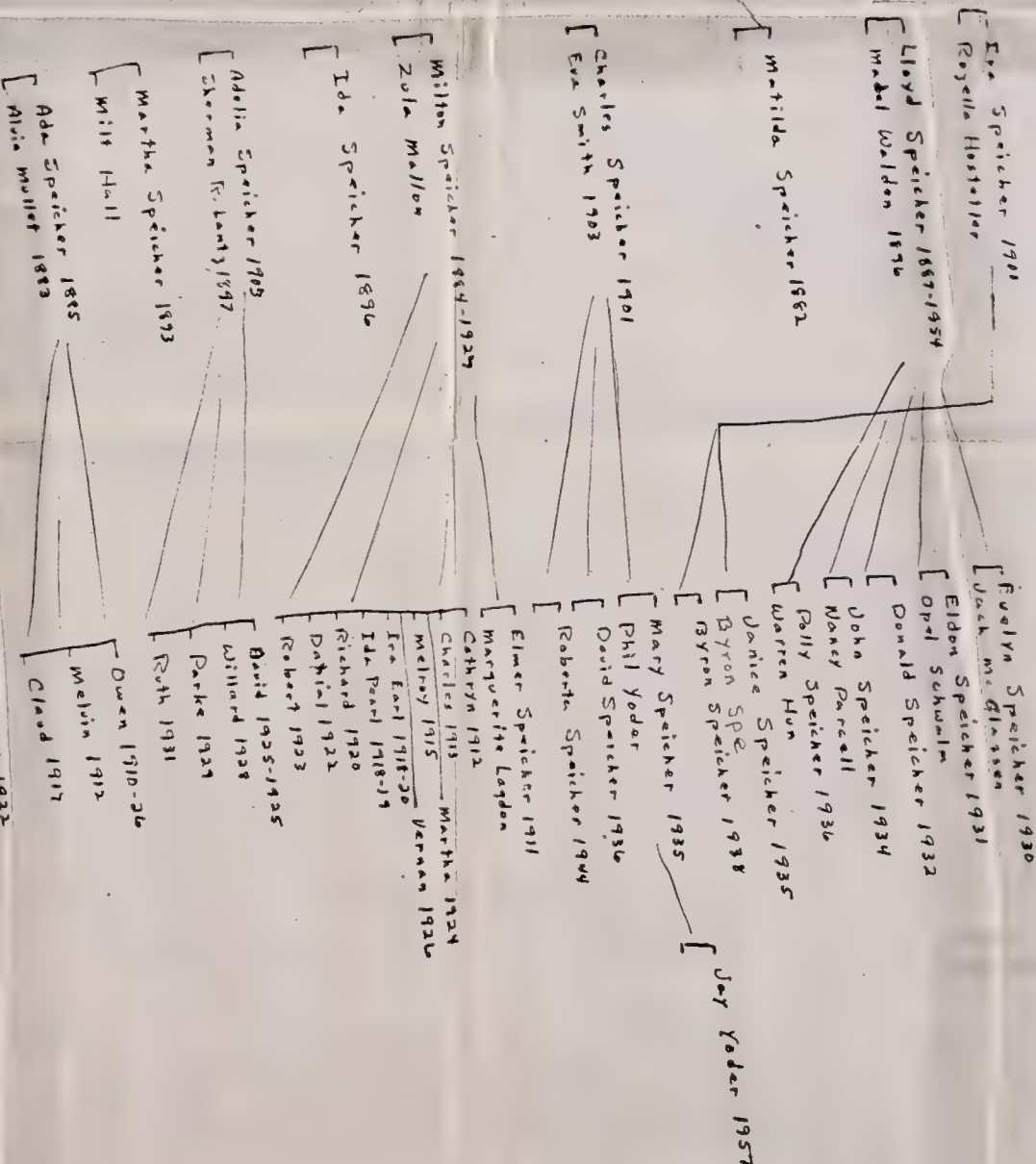
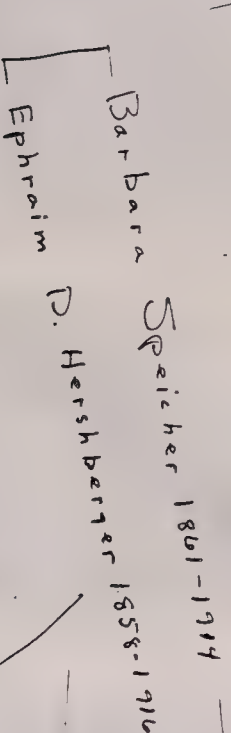
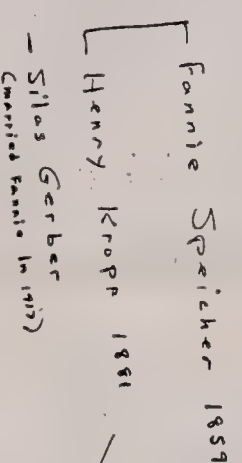
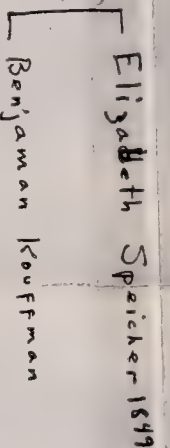
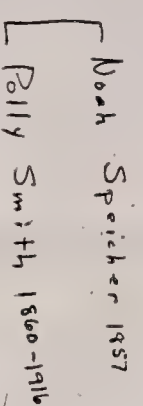
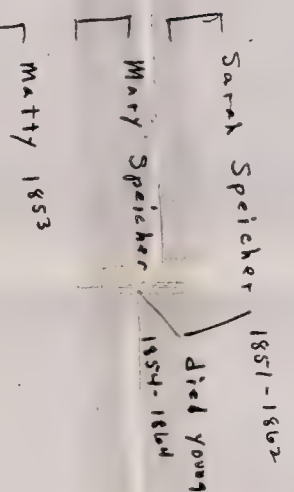
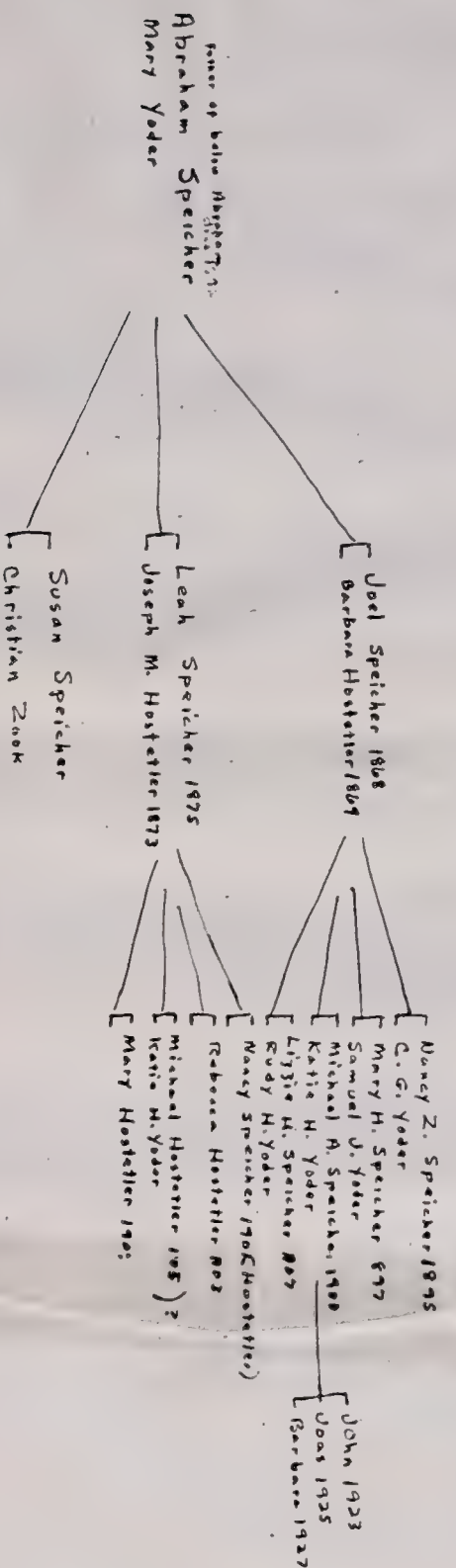
Mary
Katie 1915
Amanda 1917
Barbara 1918
Daniel 1921 } twins
Fanny 1921 }
Levi 1923
Roman 1926
Edna 1929
John 1934

Vera 1922
Harold 1923
Elmer 1928

Dates are birth dates
unless otherwise noted

Descendants of ABRAHAM SPEICHER BARBARA WEAVER

DAVID SPEICHER



Mishler 1872
Smith 1877

E Edna Gertrude 1917
L Lowell Alger 1921
L Lois Alma 1925

I Miller 1887
Ann Hostetler 1892
h Miller 1877-1910

c Miller 1902
S. Soley 1897

Miller 1899
Bontrager 1905

Ann Miller 1898
Schrock 1902

al Miller 1897
Schrock 1901

- Freeman 1912

- Milo 1914

[Eldon 1918

Clara Troyer

Merwin Eugene 1931

Dorthea Waneta 1924

- Beulah Mary 1925

- Harley O. 1929

- Betty Jean 1929

- Mary Joan 1935

Ernest P. 1920

ence H. Miller 1893
Hersberger 1896

[Emory B. 1915

- Hazel 1917

- Ira 1919

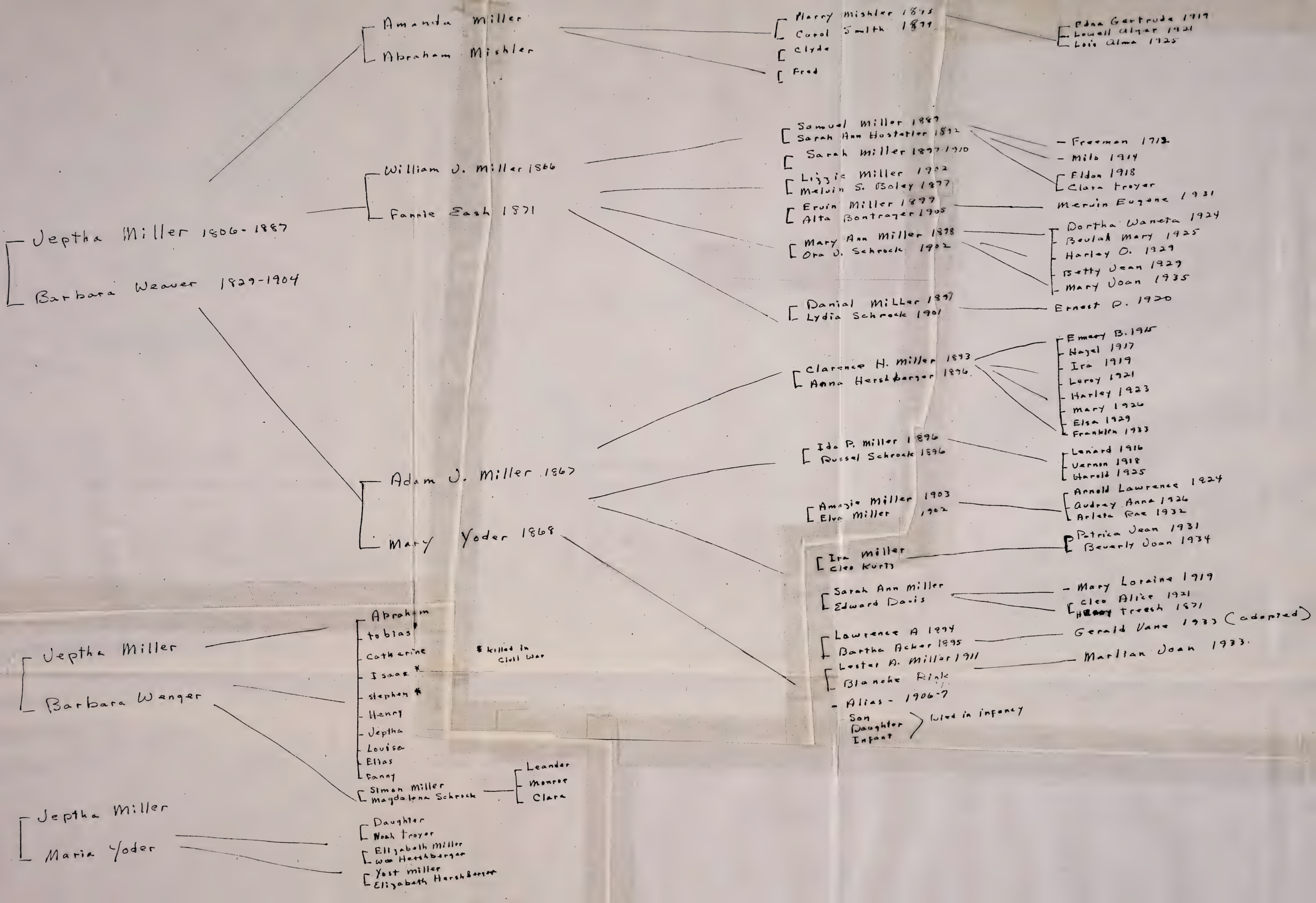
- Leroy 1921

- Harley 1923

- Mary 1926

- Elsa 1929

... 1923





JUNE 75



N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

